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# Forest Service NEWS



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FOREST SERVICE TO MOVE AHEAD ON FOREST PLANNING

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Douglas MacCleery yesterday affirmed the Chief's decision on dismissing two administrative appeals concerning Forest planning, and removed the Stay on issuance of draft Forest Plans in the Pacific Northwest Region.

Regional Forester Jim Torrence expressed pleasure at having the opportunity to proceed with the National Forest planning process. "We are looking forward to the next stage of planning development - the review of this information and the future options for management of the National Forests in the Northwest," he said.

According to Torrence, the stage between draft and final plan is a major part of the planning process. Public review comments are analyzed and evaluated, and the alternatives are reexamined in light of the new information. "We anticipate a thorough examination of all the issues and concerns raised," Torrence said, "and changes between draft and final plans will be made where appropriate."

Seven of the 19 National Forests in the Region have issued draft Forest Plans and EIS's, and the public comment periods have closed. As a result of new direction from the Chief of the Forest Service, generated by the appeal issues, supplements to the seven EIS's will be issued, with a new 90-day period for the public to comment on those issues.

"We are looking forward to the issuing of new draft Forest Plans and EIS's during the remaining months of 1987, in addition to supplements for the drafts already issued by seven National Forests," Torrence said.

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